

"Jesus Ascends"

Acts 1:1-11

"After He said this He was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid Him from their sight" [Acts 1:9]

Often one Easter has passed we move away from these events and back to other areas of Scripture and study. But Jesus hung around for 40 days and then a significant event happened – He visibly ascended into the clouds! Why do we not include this in our Lenten/Easter studies? Why was this significant and how are we blessed as a direct result of His ascension?

The Interim Before He Ascended **[Acts 1:1-6]**

Luke wrote his gospel and Acts to the same person, Theophilus. What was the purpose for writing his gospel?

Acts 1:1 "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus _____ to do and to teach

1:2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving _____ through the Holy Spirit to the _____ He had chosen.

Acts is the continuation of what Jesus began to do and teach and now we see His teachings carried out through the apostles. But before He ascended what did Jesus do and for how long?

1:3 "After his suffering, He presented himself to them and gave many _____ proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of ____ days and spoke about the _____ of God."

So why 40? What was the purpose of these other 40-day periods in the Bible?

The Flood (Gen. 7:17-23)

Moses (Ex. 24:15-18)

The Spies (Num. 13:21-25)

Goliath (1 Sam. 17:8-16)

Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-9)

Jonah (Jon. 3:4-6)

Jesus (Matt. 4:1-12)

The purpose of the 40 days: Wait on God; Prepare for a task

What two things did Jesus focus His teaching on during those 40 days?

1:4 “. . . the _____ of God.”

1:4-5 “do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the _____ My Father promised . . . in a few days you will be baptized by the _____.”

What did the Old Testament prophecies associate with the coming of the Holy Spirit?

Is. 32:14-20

Is. 44:1-8

Ezek. 36:24-30

After Jesus told them to wait for the Holy Spirit, what did the disciples ask Jesus next?

1:6 “Lord, are You at _____ time going to restore the Kingdom to _____ ?”

How did Jesus answer that question?

1:7 “It is not for you to know the times or the dates the Father _____ by His own authority.”

Does Jesus know the times or the dates of His own return and Israel’s restoration?

Matt. 24:36 “No _____ knows about that day or hour, not even the _____ in heaven nor the _____ but only the _____.”

The Interim Before He Returns

[Acts 1:7-11]

Jesus final instruction to His disciples was what?

1:8 “But you shall receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be My _____ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and unto the ends of the world.”

Read Is. 43:8-13. *Could there be a connection to these verses and Acts 1:8? If so, what might be the connection?*

After Jesus said this what happened next?

1:9 “After he said this He was taken up before their very eyes and a _____ hid Him from their sight.”

What’s the point of the cloud?

Dan. 7:13-14 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the _____ of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

v.14 "He was given _____, glory and sovereign power; _____ nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his _____ is one that will never be destroyed.

What did Jesus tell the high Priest at His trial when confronted to answer the question 'Are You the Messiah?'

Mark 15:62

And how did Jesus Himself tell his disciples how he would return?

Matt. 24:30-31

What happened after Jesus ascended into the clouds?

Acts 1:10 "They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going when suddenly two men dressed in _____ stood _____ them.

1:11 "Men of _____, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, _____ come back in the _____ way you have seen Him go into heaven."

*"In the same way" but also something else will be the same. Look up **Zech. 14:3-4***

***How then does the ascension encourage us today?**

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